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20th Anniversary of the American Folklife Center

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JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Occupational folklife expert Archie Green stands proudly beside "Mr. Dixie" at Dixie Sheetmetal in Falls Church, Va., November 1995. During the 1970s, Mr. Green lobbied for creation of the American Folklife Center. *Photo by David A. Taylor*

Cover Story: The American Folklife Center has been documenting the nation's folkways for 20 years. A reception was held at the Library marking the anniversary. 358

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
SHARON WINFIELD, Production

A Thrilling Response

Parade *Article Results in Record Number of 'Hits'*

A Sept. 29 *Parade* magazine article about the Library's National Digital Library (NDL) Program encouraged the American public to "Click On to Our Nation's History."

That is precisely what *Parade* readers did.

Furnished with the Library's Internet address, the public put down their newspapers, turned on their computers and visited the Library's website in droves. As a result, a record number of transactions, or "hits," were logged on LC's systems on that Sunday, Sept. 29, and usage soared again on Monday, Sept. 30.

The most dramatic impact registered in usage of the American Memory historical collections, which were the focus of the article featuring Dr. Billington and a discussion of the NDL effort to digitize millions of items by the year 2000. The number of American Memory transactions on that Sunday was 12 times higher than on the previous Sunday. Usage on Sept. 30 was up about 80 percent over that of the previous Monday.

This pattern of usage appears to indicate that access to the Library's historical collections is primarily via home computers.

"We were thrilled with the public's reaction to the *Parade* article," said LC Public Affairs Officer Jill D. Brett. "With the help of national media exposure, the National Digital Library Program is reaching millions of the Library's constituents across the country."

Five million rare items from the Library of Congress—including Presidential letters and diaries—are being transferred to a new website on the Internet.

Click On To Our Nation's History

BY LARRY SMITH

ON VALENTINE'S DAY, 1894, Theodore Roosevelt's wife, Alice, who had given birth to their daughter, died. His mother died the same day. Roosevelt, who was only 25, got out his leather-bound pocket diary and, in the space allotted for Feb. 14, he drew a big dark X and wrote to left: "The light has gone out of my life."

That days later, he made this entry: "After February Last, Born at Chicago 1858, July 29, 1861. I now live first on Oct. 1878. I vowed her for over a year before I won her; we were betrothed on Jan. 17th, 1880, and I was enamoured on Feb. 16th; on Oct. 27th of the same year we were married...we spent three years of happiness greater and more unalloyed than I have ever known fall to the lot of others...on Feb. 12th, 1884, her baby was born and on Feb. 14th she died in my arms, my mother had died in the same house, on the same day, but a few hours previously. On Feb. 16th they were buried together in Greenwood.

"On Feb. 17th, I christened the baby Alice Lee Roosevelt.

"The joy of his summer my life has now been bread out."

Ahead of Roosevelt—who was to become a writer, explorer and soldier—by the U.S. Presidency, the Nobel Peace Prize for combating disease in the Panama Canal, and promotion of the construction of the Panama Canal. In 1886, he married Edith Kermit Carow, with whom he lived for the rest of his life.

The diary entry and the diary itself covering the years 1878-84 are part of the collection of 23 Presidents housed in the Library of Congress, which was enhanced during the Presidency of John Adams. Until now, the only way to see the diary or any of the other 130 million items in the library's collection was to go to Washington and "look it up."

This has changed dramatically under the sponsorship of James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, who has been a champion of bringing more than 5 million items from Congress and $45 million being raised from private sources, he is directing the transfer of more than the library's collections to a website called the National Digital Library (NDL). The goal: is to put 5 million items online by the year 2000. This will place Roosevelt's diary, Lincoln's drafts of the Gettysburg Address and Walt Whitman's notebooks at the fingertips of every man, woman or schoolchild who can sit down to a computer linked to the Internet.

"The idea," Billington said, "is to eliminate nothing to an audiovisual age. We are going massively soggy in the country through the content of TV, which feature very passive consumption as well as a stereotyped attention span. If democracies are to add to the long-term of America, then we have a situation in which TV, a transport out of existence, has replaced the indoor Chautauqua."

More than half a million items from the library's collection have already been "digitized," or placed online, at http://www.loc.gov. Already accessible are materials documenting 100 years of black history in America, including letters seeking the return of runaway slaves and 311 panoramas by traveled such as Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington. Civil War photographs taken by Mathew Brady; 69 early motion pictures; 167 items documenting women's suffrage; and photographs by Carl Van Vechten of celebrities prominent in the 1920s and '30s, as well as photos from the Depression and World War II.

In the next few years, anybody will be able to call up the library's Presidential papers, 100,000 papers from the anthropologist Margaret Mead or parts of *The Nation's Blood*, a historian collection of film by the suffragist leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton and an international exhibition of women artists...some of the most controversial books of the 19th century.

The materials were chosen with two requirements in mind, Billington said. "It has got to be important, and it has got to be interesting. You must bring to find everybody says a level, as this, a statement, past. It's like finding your grandparents' letters in the attic."

"The NDL project," he added, "is something that can take us back to what the poet John Keats called 'olden and olden time.' There's the last world of individual items, in which most Americans lived their lives in the last century. The main point is that people will have to think, and that's the whole game.

"It's important to remember that the Congress has three aims. This is a total member of Congress and the American people. We are trying to show that everything that comes to Washington doesn't just disappear into a black hole."

While the library is digitizing more books, it is focusing on its "special collections"—materials that are hard to

continued

"The main thing is that everybody gets a look at the American past," says the Librarian of Congress. "It's like finding your grandparents' letters in the attic."

Dr. Billington and Theodore Roosevelt's diaries were featured in the Sept. 29 *Parade* magazine article on the library's website.

tem, THOMAS, experienced three times the number of transactions on Sept. 29 compared to THOMAS usage the previous Sunday. THOMAS usage on Monday, Sept. 30, doubled that for a normal weekday. While visiting the Library's home page, users can easily click on to THOMAS.

Overall usage of the Library's World Wide Web offerings (which includes THOMAS and American Memory) was also six times higher on Sept. 29 than the previous Sunday, and more than twice as high on Sept. 30 as on an average week day.

Reduced response time as a result of this unprecedented amount of traffic no doubt caused consternation among some users. Among them was Laura Campbell, director of the National Digital Library Program, who was attempting to demonstrate the system during the peak period. "I tried three times to access the Library site, and each time I got a response that said "temporarily unavailable," Ms. Campbell said.

"We have been in the process of upgrading the RS 6000 server complex since early summer in anticipation of increased demand for access to the Library's Internet offerings," said Herbert Becker, director of Information Technology Services. "To date, three of the Library's five servers have already been upgraded from one processor to eight processors, with four times as much storage capacity," said Mr. Becker.

—*Audrey Fischer*

Audrey Fischer is an editor-writer with Information Technology Services.

Number of Transactions

	Sunday, Sept. 29	Sunday, Sept. 22
World Wide Web	670,729	100,267
THOMAS	66,046	18,316
American Memory	337,620	27,628
	Monday, Sept. 30	**Monday, Sept. 23**
World Wide Web	670,696	288,988
THOMAS	225,391	111,795
American Memory	152,829	85,495

Rescuing the Orphans

National Film Preservation Act Signed into Law

On Oct. 11 President Clinton signed into law H.R. 1734 "The National Film Preservation Act of 1996." This historic, bipartisan legislation will help to ensure the survival of America's rich motion picture heritage.

The legislation signed by the president does two important things: 1) it reauthorizes the National Film Preservation Board for seven years, and 2) creates a federally chartered, private National Film Preservation Foundation.

Dr. Billington lauded passage of H.R. 1734, calling it "of vital importance to film archives across the nation."

He said, "We are honored that Congress entrusted this independent foundation to the Library of Congress, which possesses the world's largest film collection [built over 100 years] and which for more than 25 years has had its own active film preservation program. We will continue our leadership role and discharge this new responsibility in ways benefiting all institutions in the film preservation arena, but will need strong support from the private sector and other film-related organizations to make the most of this new opportunity."

Under provisions of the legislation, the Librarian will continue to name up to 25 "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" films each year to the National Film Registry and seek archival copies of each film for preservation within the Library of Congress. In addition to advising on Registry selections, the National Film Preservation Board counsels the Librarian of Congress on implementation of the national film preservation plan, *Redefining Film Preservation*, published in 1994. In its seven years of existence, the board has played a critical role in increasing the American public's awareness of film preservation and fostering increased cooperation among all parties in the motion picture community (film studios, film artists, non-profit archives, educators and others), making certain film preservation efforts are effective and complementary.

NFPB Chair Fay Kanin thanked Congress for reauthorizing the board, thus confirming the success of its work the past seven years. "Many remarkable individuals have served on the board to date, and the results have been more far more successful than we could possibly have hoped. It's time to get back to work, however, for much remains to be done."

Title 2 of H.R. 1734 creates the independent private sector National Film Preservation Foundation to serve as a public-private partnership for film preservation. The foundation, modeled on other similar foundations created by Congress, will raise private funds (both cash and in-kind contributions), match these with limited federal funds and provide grants to nonprofit film archives, historical societies and other nonprofit institutions with film collections throughout the nation. Grants will focus on non-Hollywood films and films without commercial protectors, including public domain films, silent films, documentaries, independent films, films of historical and regional importance and films by or documenting minorities; these films are of vital educational and historical importance but possess little commercial value. Unlike Hollywood features, these films, commonly called "orphans," have no preservation benefactors and will not survive without public intervention. Congress has structured the foundation to be a lean private entity; no federal funds will be used for administrative expenses.

David Francis, chief of the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, called on all portions of the film community to continue to rally behind the national plan. "Congress has given us a superb chance to save film history and we must not waste this opportunity. To make a successful movie requires thousands of persons working to-

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A young man performs various acrobatic feats in the 1898 Thomas Edison film "A Street Arab," available on-line from the Library.

News from the National Digital Library

GLIN Project Directors Hold Annual Meeting

The annual Project Directors Meeting of the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) was held at the Library Sept. 3-6, drawing participants from nearly a dozen nations, some with travel funded by the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, to discuss progress they have made in implementing GLIN in their countries.

GLIN is a database of laws of 11 participating nations, with abstracts in English based on a common legal thesaurus, accessible on the Internet (in addition, about a dozen countries are seeking membership). GLIN helps fulfill the Law Library's chief mission: providing foreign and comparative legal research to Congress. The public may access abstracts of legal texts from the GLIN home page, accessible from the Library at http://www.loc.gov/.

According to Law Librarian Rubens Medina, who is also director general of GLIN, "The meetings were an opportunity for the GLIN participants to share their success stories — of which there were many. We are pleased with the progress our members have made in providing GLIN data to their users."

GLIN's three newest project directors, Francisco José Paoli Bolio of Mexico; Hyun-Koo Lee of South Korea and Dan Chirita of Romania, join Rubens Medina, (second from left), the Law Librarian of Congress, at the GLIN annual meeting.

The meetings also provided a forum for discussing such issues as computer security and transmission of GLIN data via satellite, an effort for which the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has been providing technical expertise to GLIN.

As they have in past meetings, representatives from each country presented reports on their GLIN stations. This reporting session highlighted issues common to many network members as well as some unique concerns. A delegate from Argentina, for example, reported on her country's at-

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Preservation Resources Awarded Scanning Contract

On Aug. 6, the Library of Congress National Digital Library (NDL) Program, working with the Library's Contracts and Logistics Services, awarded to Preservation Resources the first of several major scanning contracts. This contract is for the production of digital images of selected collections from the Library's extensive holdings of 35mm microfilm.

The contract award is for one year plus four option years, during which time approximately 1 million gray-scale and bitonal images are to be produced and made available by the National Digital Library Program over the Internet. The microfilm of the historical collections, which will be scanned for the NDL Program, was produced between 1950 and 1994. The first collection to be scanned under this contract will be the Presidential Papers of George Washington from the Library's Manuscript Division. Other collections to follow will be from the holdings of the Music Division and the Presidential Papers of Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, also from the Manuscript Division. Various less extensive collections and individual titles will also be scanned.

The contract award is in full compliance with all provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Buy American Act.

Preservation Resources, a division of the OCLC Online Computer Library Center, is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the reformatting or conversion of library and archival materials.

Since 1985, Preservation Resources has completed preservation microfilming projects for institutions throughout the country, filming approximately 200,000 volumes, largely for preservation projects supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities' Division of Preservation and Access.

Beverly Robinson

Building an Archives for the Future

Folklife Center Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

by Alan Jabbour

The 1970s was a period of increased attention to "roots" —those aspects of heritage that lie between the individual and the nation and that connect individuals to communities while defining the nation as a whole. This attention led to passage of the American Folklife Preservation Act, Public Law 94-201, that passed both houses of Congress at the end of 1975 and was signed into law by President Ford on Jan. 2, 1976. The definition of folklife in the American Folklife Preservation Act anchored the center firmly in the expressive culture of the family, ethnic, religious, occupational and regional groups that make up America.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the birth of the American Folklife Center (AFC). The first full year of the center's operations was 1977, and in that year it launched two field documentary projects, the Chicago Ethnic Arts Project and the South-Central Georgia Folklife Project. They set a pattern of field documentary projects that has characterized the center's work during its two decades of existence: Both projects were arts-connected. The Chicago project was a response to a request from the Illinois Arts Council, which had been mandated by its state legislature to begin a program in support of ethnic arts and asked for guidance on the networks and artistic traditions of Chicago's many ethnic groups.

The Georgia project came after an invitation from the Arts Experiment Station, based at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and operating programs in an eight-county area of south-central Georgia. Though one was urban and one rural, both projects emphasized the importance of documenting artistic traditions professionally, using sound recordings and still photography, with an eye both to creating public products and to building an archives for the future.

Dennis McDonald

Norman Thomas and his foxhounds were part of a project in New Jersey that documented the relationship between a hunter and his dogs, January 1989.

One of the first Folklife Center documentation projects focused on master artists such as quilter Fannie Lee Teals. *From the American Folklife Center, South-Central Georgia Project, 1977.*

Founded in 1928 within the Library's Music Division, the Archive of American Folk-Song made important contributions to ethnography, folklore and folk music research, public programming, and cultural documentation and preservation in every decade of its history. Its heads were Robert W. Gordon, John A. Lomax, Alan Lomax, Benjamin A. Botkin, Duncan Emrich, Rae Korson, Alan Jabbour and Joseph C. Hickerson.

The archive began documenting folk music beyond the borders of the United States as early as 1935, when Alan Lomax recorded in the Bahamas, and by 1940 it had expanded its documentary scope well beyond folk music into folklore, verbal arts and oral history. Since the 1950s it had been named simply the Archive of Folk Song. In 1978 the archive was transferred from

Joseph Czarnecki

Workers harvesting cranberries at Haines bogs in Chatsworth, N.J., documented for the Pinelands Folklife Project, 1983.

the Music Division to the American Folklife Center, and, in 1979, reflecting both the historical broadening of the archive's scope and the AFC's need to deal archivally with all aspects of folklife, the name was changed to the Archive of Folk Culture.

One way the AFC immediately changed the archive was by incorporating into its collections the multiformat documentary results of field projects representing a panoply of folklife traditions. Field projects were a major activity of the AFC during its first two decades. They may have seemed to represent a new direction, but in reality they restored an activity that had characterized the archive in the 1930s and again in the 1970s.

Thus the center's innovation was not in instituting fieldwork, but in expanding it to include not only music but oral arts, material culture, occupational traditions and other aspects of culture not documented by the archive in an earlier generation. Similarly, the basic tools of documentation expanded to include not only sound recordings but photography. And finally, the process of fieldwork expanded from the classic one or two workers to teams of several professionals working in close interaction.

Center projects include: The Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project (1978); the Paradise Valley (Nevada) Folklife Project (1978-82); the Pinelands (New Jersey) Folklife Project (1983); the Lowell (Massachusetts) Folklife Project (1987-88); the New River Gorge (West Virginia) Folklife Project; Working in Paterson (New Jersey); and the Appalachian Forest Folklife Project (1994-).

The idea of documenting and preserving culture through the use of new technologies began the century as a scientific and artistic experimentation and ended the century as a mode of human intercourse. In the late 20th century, documenting culture *is* culture. If something is important, one should take photographs, make sound recordings or aim a video camera at it; by subtle inference, documenting it symbolically affirms one's belief in its importance.

Other Research Projects

The AFC's first "project" had been the conference on "Ethnic Recordings in America" (1977) and its resultant book *Ethnic Recordings in America: A Neglected Heritage* (1982). Soon after, center folklife specialist Elena Bradunas and researcher Theodore Grame devised a plan for a national survey of ethnic broadcasting. Ethnic radio programs were then (and remain today) a widespread and long-standing cultural medium for ethnic communities, and ethnic television programs were already becoming common.

In 1982 the center launched a new national study, the Ethnic Heritage and Language Schools Project. The ethnic schools study differed in design and strategy from other center studies in that it was conducted by independent researchers at sites they had proposed to the center. The final tally of sites included a variety of educational and cultural programs representing several ethnic groups. All the programs were controlled wholly by the ethnic community itself, and thus represented community values in the cultural education of young community members.

The center began a third research project in 1979 that proved to be one of its most ambitious and challenging. Though all AFC projects have increased the collections of the Archive of Folk Culture, the Federal Cylinder Project was the first to be based on existing archive collections. The archive over the decades had received many wax cylinder recordings of ethnographic material documented in the field from 1890 through the 1930s. Indeed, it had received so many that the Library's Recording Laboratory had developed a special expertise in the engineering challenge of copying them. Some had been copied onto disk

Carl Fleischhauer

Documentary photographer Bill Smock filming a cattle drive in Paradise Valley, Nev., for the Paradise Valley Folklife Project, 1979.

Carl Fleischhauer

Linda Gantañaga, Howard Marshall and Alan Jabbour discuss fieldwork plans for the Paradise Valley Project at a motel in Winnemucca, Nev., 1978.

Patrick Mullen

Fourth graders, photographed as part of the Blue Ridge Folklife project, perform a hand-clapping routine called "My Left, My Left," September 1978.

in the 1930s and 1940s, and more were copied onto magnetic tape beginning in the 1950s.

But many of the more than 10,000 wax cylinders and cylinder-based recordings in the archive had never been copied for preservation and access. As the decades passed, it became apparent that the survival of the cylinders was imperiled. Not only were they extremely fragile, but they were made of emulsions that, over time, tended to separate. Oils exuded into film on the surface, where they attracted molds

Ned Danson, David Voight, Alan Jabbour, Wayland Hand, Daniel Boorstin and Elizabeth Hammer Kagan at a Folklife Center board of trustees meeting, September 1976

John Gibbs

Performing in the Folklife Center's Neptune Plaza Concert Series, master drummer Yaccub Addy leads the Oboade Drumming and Dance Company down the plaza steps, May 1982.

and other external perils. In response, the AFC devised a plan for preserving, cataloging and disseminating the cylinders.

The Federal Cylinder Project has been among the most successful of the center's undertakings. Yet it is not finished. Although all the wax cylinders were preserved by duplicating them onto tape, only about three-fourths were cataloged, and copies of perhaps two-thirds were returned to Indian communities.

Public Presentation

The legislation that created the American Folklife Center provided a mandate "to preserve and present American folklife." The Neptune Plaza Concert Series, on the front steps of the Library's Jefferson Building, began in 1977 and ran continuously (in warm weather months) for 19 years, ending with the 1995 season. The emphasis in the early years was on blues, old-time, bluegrass, gospel, and Hispanic and Caribbean traditions. In time, more ethnic traditions were highlighted; then groups from abroad began appearing. Beginning in 1989, the audience was substantially expanded when the concerts were broadcast on Washington's WAMU-FM.

At other times, the center sponsored a variety of workshops, lectures and other presentations. Many workshops focused on crafts, spoken-word traditions, foodways and other aspects of folklife. The crafts workshops featured interviews with crafts people and hands-on demonstrations. Several were accompanied by informative brochures on the subject (rag rugs, papercutting, or the like) that became useful reference handouts in the months and years after the workshop was held.

Exhibitions

Live events are not the only mode of cultural presentation. Throughout its history, the center has used exhibitions to present aspects of folklife in public venues. The first major exhibition undertaken by the center was two exhibitions in one. "Folk Art and Folklife" combined a photographic exhibition (with sound stations) — "Sketches of South Georgia Folklife" (drawn from the center's South-Central Georgia Folklife Project) — with "Missing Pieces," an exhibition of Georgia folk art.

A few years after the Georgia exhibition, the Paradise Valley Folklife Project led to two exhibitions. One of the fieldworkers, from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, proposed using that museum as the site for an exhibit drawn from the project's encounters relating to Great Basin ranching traditions. The Folklife Center was enthusiastic and, in an unusual collaborative venture, produced the book-catalog *Buckaroos in Paradise: Cowboy Life in Northern Nevada* (1980) to complement the museum's exhibition of the same name. Soon the AFC was planning a major exhibition on the American cowboy. The exhibition and the complementary book, *The American Cowboy* (1983), were made possible by major support from United Technologies.

Another exhibition, celebrated the 1992 Columbus quincentenary. Several years before, the Library, along with other agencies and institutions, began to prepare for this major milestone. Asked by Congress what its plans were, the Library responded with a

proposal for a major exhibition focusing on the early encounter of European civilization with the geography and cultures of the Americas.

The Folklife Center's project focused on Italian American cultural contributions to the West. Italian immigrants arrived in the West beginning in the mid-19th century, early in its European settlement, but the contributions of Italian Americans to the culture of the West were little known nationally. Also, Italian Americans — beginning in the West—have adopted Columbus as a hero. The resulting exhibition, "Old Ties, New Attachments: Italian-American Folklife in the West," opened on Columbus Day 1992, at the de Saisset Museum in Santa Clara, Calif., and traveled to four other venues before arriving at the Library of Congress.

Publications

A year after its inception, in January 1978, the American Folklife Center inaugurated a quarterly newsletter, *Folklife Center News*, focusing on AFC programs and activities.

The best-known publications from the archive are the series of documentary folk music recordings issued from its collections. The series began with a special 78-rpm album in 1941, which was incorporated into a larger album in 1942. By 1976, when the center was created, the archive series had produced 67 recordings in long-playing record (LP) form. In addition, a special 15-album bicentennial series, "Folk Music in America," edited by Richard K. Spottswood, was released over a period of several years, including during the early years of the center. Thus a total of 82 releases dated from the pre-AFC era.

The center began adding to this total in 1978 by issuing an LP album, "The Folk Music of America" (AFS L68), featuring the field recordings of Robert W. Gordon, the first head of the archive, in the 1920s and early 1930s. A year later, the Blue Ridge Parkway Folklife Project yielded a double-LP set, "Children of the Heav'nly King" (L69-70). And a few years later, "Omaha Indian Music" (L71) appeared.

Lucy Long

These Korean dance students waiting to perform at a Silver Spring, Md., nursing home were photographed for the AFC's Ethnic Heritage and Language Schools Project, 1981.

The center's Endangered Music Project was proposed by Mickey Hart, a percussionist for the Grateful Dead and a longtime documentarian of and advocate for grass roots music of all kinds. He proposed a series featuring the collections in the archive representing music of the world's cultures, in collaboration with the record company Rykodisc. The first in the series, "The Spirit Cries," was released in early 1993 and presented musical traditions from rain forest cultures of the tropical Americas. The second in the series, "Music for the Gods " (1994), featured music from Bali and nearby islands in Indonesia, drawn from the Fahnestock South Sea Collection, which was donated to the AFC in 1986. The project is preparing four additional releases from West Africa and the African American traditions of Brazil and the Caribbean.

The center's 20-year history divides into two 10-year phases. The first decade was characterized by an expanding budget and an emphasis on fieldwork and public programming. The second decade was characterized by a flat budget which has gradually shifted the center toward fund-raising, partnerships for its programming, and an increasing emphasis on the collections-based functions of the center.

The center's future will depend not only on fund-raising and partnerships, but also on larger developments in the field of folklife and in the nation's attitudes about its cultural heritage. Those were the key factors in the center's creation, and they are likely to be the key factors in its future.

—Alan Jabbour is director of the American Folklife Center.

'Speak to My Heart'

Well-Wishers Express Support for Folklife Center

Stephen Wade knows a woman so fussy she puts a clean cloth under the cuckoo clock. And pancakes so thin they have only one side. And a yes-man who spent his vacation saying, "No, no, I tell you, no!"

He found all this, and more, he told the audience attending the American Folklife Center's 20th anniversary celebration on Sept. 18, just down the hall in the center's Archive of Folk Culture. Mr. Wade, who has made a theatrical career out of telling the stories and playing the banjo music he uncovered at the Library of Congress, provided the entertainment for the evening, along with the Gospel Pearls, a female gospel group that has been singing in the Washington area for more than 26 years.

The Gospel Pearls opened the celebration for approximately 200 invited guests in the Jefferson Building with a song called "Speak to My Heart." This tune could be considered the theme song for the evening, as one speaker after another got up to express his or her heartfelt support for the center.

Archie Green, whose untiring efforts helped lead to the establishment of the American Folklife Center, talks to Keith Kennedy, staff director, Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Larry Glatt

Judith McCulloh (left), chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center, and Jane Beck, president of the American Folklore Society, present a resolution to Sen. Mark Hatfield during the center's 20th anniversary celebration.

Noting that the celebration was taking place in a hall with a mural depicting war at one end and peace at the other, Dr. Billington said he wanted to "reaffirm both my personal, and our institutional, commitment to fostering and supporting the mission of the American Folklife Center."

In his remarks he called the center "one of our strongest and most effective programs since its inception" in 1976. Only two days before the celebration, the president signed the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for 1997, which included a clause authorizing the center through 1998. Since it was founded in 1976, the center has been periodically reauthorized for periods of up to three years at a time.

The Librarian then introduced Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.), one of the sponsors of the original legislation to establish the center 20 years ago. Sen. Hatfield also was instrumental in obtaining the center's most recent reauthorization. In his remarks, Sen. Hatfield shared his views on the importance of rounding out Americans' understanding of history through the first-person narratives of people who actually participated in events, citing the diaries of women who traveled the Oregon Trail as an example, along with the observations of Samuel Pepys, whose diary provides a detailed record of life in 17th century London. More specifically, what might be called the legislative utility of folklore was exemplified in a story Sen. Hatfield told about how opposing views on a piece of legislation came to be resolved. In the midst of a heated debate, he was invited by Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.V.) to come in on a Saturday and listen to a recording of the West Virginia senator's fiddle tunes.

"And I believe that this time we spent together, preparing our minds and our hearts to negotiate, helped us to resolve the issue by injecting a piece of our common heritage into our dis-

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Congressional Relations

Final Days of the 104th Congress Busy for CRO

Before the 104th Congress went home on Friday, Oct. 4, LC's six-person Congressional Relations Office (CRO) focused its energies on unfinished legislative business of great importance to the Library.

During the week of Sept. 30, CRO Director Geraldine Otremba and her staff logged a record number of calls received from congressional staff and — in response to the requests of members and staff often unfamiliar with all aspects of needed legislation — drafted explanatory letters, prepared floor statements, and worked late with committee staff members.

Therefore, CRO had to monitor the positions and concerns of other interested parties as well as the primary concerns of the members. Monitoring floor activity from gavel to gavel via C-SPAN and THOMAS was invaluable.

Dr. Billington was no less engaged. He was briefed on legislative activity and prospects. He took calls from members seeking to understand the impact of a number of bills on the Library and the Copyright Office, a Library activity around which swirled a number of unresolved issues right up until the very last minutes of the 104th Congress.

"The Librarian was never more than a phone call away when we needed to interrupt his scheduled meetings and appointments for briefings or to return calls from members trying to resolve disputes on bills," Ms. Otremba recalled. "CRO can lay an excellent foundation on an issue but the concerns of the Librarian of Congress carry real weight."

The Folklife Center

Early in 1995, the Library began seeking a two-year authorization of the American Folklife Center, whose previous two-year authorization was due to expire at the end of the fiscal year 1995. The center, authorized by Congress in 1976 to "preserve and protect" American folklife, had been reauthorized seven times. CRO began consulting with center Director Alan Jabbour, other senior Library managers and congressional oversight staff, to secure passage of reauthorization legislation and to support appropriations funding.

CRO coordinated numerous responses to congressional inquiries about Folklife Center activities and programs as the Library sought reauthorization for the center. Congress deferred action on the center in 1995, although the center's activities were funded for fiscal 1996.

This year, Congress reauthorized the center for two years as part of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for fiscal 1997 (P.L. 104-197). The reauthorization process involved not only the board of the American Folklife Center but also a broad array of folklorists and historians who value and use the AFC's unique archive.

The Film Board

At the Library's request, Rep. Carlos Moorhead (R-Calif.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, introduced legislation on May 25, 1995, to reauthorize the National Film Preservation Board and the National Film Registry for a 10-year period (H.R. 1734).

The bill also included authorization to establish the National Film Preservation Foundation, a public-private partnership to raise funds for national film preservation efforts. The National Film Preservation Act of 1992, which expired in June 1996, authorized the selection of 25 films per year, based on their historical, cultural and aesthetic significance, for the National Film Registry. The Library has taken selections from the National Film Registry to communities across the country, bringing America's valuable film heritage directly to its citizens.

The House passed H.R. 1734 on July 29. The bill provides a seven-year reauthorization period instead of 10, no authorizing funds for the foundation until FY 2000, at which time $250,000 would be authorized until FY 2003, and the terms of board members of both entities will be shortened to four years rather than five under the original bill. It was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent on Sept. 28.

Copyright Legislation

Copyright legislation demanded constant attention by the Library and Copyright Office during the 104th Congress. Many bills were introduced, which amended copyright law or sought to reorganize how copyright policy is formulated. Other bills, aimed at restructuring the Patent and Trademark Office, included provisions incorporating copyright policy formation and an executive branch structure for the Copyright Office.

Dr. Billington and Register of Copyrights Marybeth Peters argued strongly against legislation to remove the Copyright Office from the Library and place it in a newly created U.S. Intellectual Property Corporation.

This legislation, if enacted, would have required that the Copyright Office be self-supporting and, in addition, raise sufficient fees to provide one-third of the expenses of the new entity. Both the independent voice of the Register of Copyrights in the legislative branch and the critical interdependence of the Library and the Copyright Office would have been threatened.

Dr. Billington and Ms. Peters were each involved in formulating and presenting testimony from the Library and the Copyright Office. In numerous conversations with members of the Judiciary Committees of the House and Senate, the Librarian explained the threat that removal of the Copyright Office would pose to the

Library's collections. Dr. Billington outlined his position in a written statement to the Judiciary Committee for a Sept. 18 hearing. Ms. Peters, who testified at the hearing, worked with her staff to determine the impact of the bill on the Copyright Office and on intellectual property owners and users.

As a result of the September hearing, the committee decided not to pursue the proposal and instead drafted legislation to create a government corporation dealing only with patents and trademarks. This revised legislation was not acted on by the Senate before adjournment.

Said Ms. Peters: "Without CRO staff and their knowledge of the congressional process and the congressional players, I know Copyright would not have done as well as it did. We worked together as a team."

Legislation was also introduced in the 104th Congress to extend the basic term of copyright by 20 years. In addition, bills were introduced to amend the copyright law to meet the new challenges posed by the use and reproduction of works in the digital environment. Because of the many complex and often controversial issues involved in these bills, Congress did not enact into law many of the key amendments proposed. These issues will certainly resurface in the 105th.

At the request of the Copyright Office, legislation was introduced in the House to make a number of amendments to the copyright statute, including a provision to allow Copyright to increase fees. Under the current law, fees are set by statute. The legislation would have allowed the Copyright Office to invest fees deposited against future services and retain the income received from this investment.

This bill passed the House last June. The Copyright Office and CRO worked with Senate staff in the final weeks of the session to explain the bill and its importance to both the Copyright Office and the intellectual property community. In the time remaining, Senate action had to proceed without any opposition and it was critical, therefore, that all interested parties had accurate and up-to-date information. Despite the fact that there was no known opposition to the final draft, the Senate was not able to consider the bill before adjourning.

Financial Management

The Congressional Relations Office also prepared for the introduction of the Library of Congress Financial Management Act of 1995. There have been seven variations of the legislation previously introduced over the last five years. The most recent bill, consisting of six separate titles, would have enabled the Library to continue to make needed improvements in its financial management and administration; the draft bill included recommendations dating back to a 1991 General Accounting Office report citing lack of proper authority to operate the Library's gift revolving funds.

Although the legislation was submitted to key oversight committee staff early in the 104th Congress, at-

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Folklife Center Celebration

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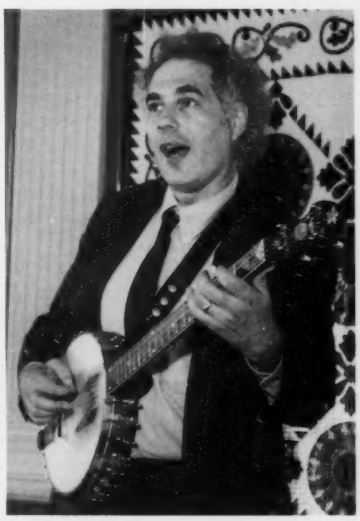
cussion," he said.

Judith McCulloh, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center, and Jane Beck, president of the American Folklore Society, then presented Sen. Hatfield with a basket of sample publications and recordings produced by the American Folklife Center and folklife programs around the country, along with a custom commemorative apron given to all the guests at the reception as a donation by Coming Home, a division of the mail order company Lands' End. Dr. McCulloh read the following resolution, which had been hand lettered and framed for Sen. Hatfield:

"For his dedication to the nurture of American culture at the grass roots through the preservation and presentation of American folklife; and for his signal contributions to every stage of the American Folklife Center's development, from conception through birth and into the challenges of maturity; the Board of Directors of the American Folklife Center and the Executive Board of the American Folklore Society, on behalf of all citizens who value American folklife, offer their heartfelt gratitude to Sen. Mark Hatfield, whose vision and steadfast support make him a friend of folklife forever."



Stephen Wade, creator of the Arena Stage hit "Banjo Dancing," along with the Gospel Pearls, provided the entertainment for the Folklife Center's 20th anniversary celebration.

Stephen Wade, whose show "Banjo Dancing" was featured at Washington's Arena Stage for a record 10 years, returned, along with the Gospel Pearls, to the stage to round out the evening. Amid the string of folk expressions and jokes gleaned from the center's collections that Mr. Wade shared with the audience, the following exchange seemed particularly appropriate to the occaision

"So, have you lived here all your life?"

"Not yet."

—Craig D'Ooge

Craig D'Ooge is media director in the Public Affairs Office.

CRO

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tention to the need for the bill was diverted as oversight staff prepared for two major hearings on the Library and its operations. The Library's Congressional Relations Office and Financial Services Director provided briefings and proposed improvements to the draft throughout the 104th, but the legislation was not introduced.

"I hope and trust that the groundbreaking examination of the Library's operations by the Joint Committee on the Library in the 104th Congress will lay a solid foundation for working with Congress and GAO in the 105th Congress to rectify a situation that all parties agree must be remedied," said Ms. Otremba.

In the 105th Congress, CRO plans to stress, once again, the importance of financial management legislation for the continued operation of the Library's self-sustaining and Economy Act activities. Because the Library believes that the revolving fund, investment, retention of proceeds and cataloging distribution proposals are essential to operate LC programs in a more businesslike manner, and maximize investment of the LC's assets, LC's Inspector General will be examining the self-sustaining operations and other programs affected by the legislation to assist the Library when it renews its request for passage in the 105th Congress.

Commemorative Coin

On March 8, 1995, Dr. Billington requested support from the Joint Committee on the Library for commemorative coin legislation in support of the Library's 200th anniversary in the year 2000. Shortly thereafter, CRO briefed key oversight staff and provided followup information. A key component to getting legislation passed is gaining the approval of the Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee (CCAC). The CCAC, as mandated by P.L. 102-390, advises Congress, annually, on commemorative coin themes, mintage levels and years of issuance. A request to appear before the advisory committee must be preceded by having legislation introduced.

On Sept. 27, Senators Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) and Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) introduced the Library of Congress Commemorative Coin Act. The Library plans to seek introduction of a commemorative coin bill early in the 105th Congress as a key component of the Library's bicentennial celebration in 1999-2000.

Capitol Visitor Center

Legislation was introduced in the 104th to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to construct a Capitol Visitor Center under the East Plaza of the Capitol. The center is to provide reception facilities, educational exhibits, amenities, auditoriums and other programs and facilities for members of the public visiting the Capitol.

The Library requested that the center's design plan include a 500-seat Library of Congress film auditorium and other audio and visual viewing facilities that could be accessible and operated by LC. The Library also explored the feasibility of constructing a tunnel connecting the Jefferson Building to the Visitor Center.

The final design plans issued by the Architect of the Capitol in November 1995 included the requested Library facilities, and members of Congress have generally accepted the Library's participation in the center project.

"All in all," said Ms. Otremba (who joined the Library's staff at the very beginning of the 104th Congress) "it has been a very busy Congress. There were major oversight hearings on the Library at which our mission was reaffirmed. We look forward to welcoming the 105th Congress and are already deeply involved in organizing our legislative agenda for 1997-1998."

–Lucy D. Suddreth

Lucy Suddreth is a congressional relations specialist in the Congressional Relations Office.

Film Preservation

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gether. Building a foundation from the ground up will be no different and no less challenging."

Maxine Fleckner Ducey, President of the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA), said, "AMIA would like to thank Congress and the administration for recognizing the enduring value of America's film heritage by establishing the National Film Preservation Foundation. In so doing, they have acknowledged the important work of film archivists throughout the country; and even more significantly, they have provided the archive community with our best hope for solving the crisis in film preservation." Martin Scorsese, film director and film preservation champion, said, "This foundation will be the ideal mechanism to ensure the long-term preservation of America's film heritage, especially that portion not controlled by commercial interests. Serving as the much needed central fund-raising repository and administrator of film preservation grants, the foundation will unite the public and private sectors [studios, film producers and artists, archives, the educational community and others] in a cooperative effort to preserve American film. I, along with other film artists, plan to support the work of this foundation actively and enthusiastically."

H.R. 1734 was introduced by Rep. Carlos J. Moorhead (R-Calif.) in the House of Representatives, while Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) served as the bill's primary sponsor in the Senate. Numerous other members from both parties helped achieve passage of the bill. Further information on the legislation can be obtained from Steve Leggett, Library of Congress, National Film Preservation Board, (202) 707-5912, fax (202) 707-2371; email: sleg@loc.gov; or the Internet home page of the National Film Preservation Board: http://lcweb.loc.gov/film/.

GLIN Annual Meeting

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tempts to publish its official gazette (primary source of laws) electronically. The debate over electronic publication of official sources of laws is continuing in other countries as well. On the other hand, Kuwait suggested that new forms of queries be considered for searching the GLIN database because the morphology and grammar of Arabic may require different search techniques.

Also participating in the meeting were representatives from GLIN's partner institutions, the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and NASA. The World Bank has financed the participation of Mauritania, and Tunisia is poised to join the network with the World Bank's support.

Andrew Vorkink, assistant general counsel for legal reform at the World Bank, expressed the World Bank's commitment to assist interested nations in joining GLIN as part of its legal reform efforts. The Inter-American Development Bank is supporting the participation of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (the Mercosur, or southern market, countries) as part of its commitment to integrate countries into international legislative networks and implement technologies that support legislative activities. If participation in GLIN is successful for the Mercosur countries, the Inter-American Development Bank intends to support other countries in Latin America as well.

Milton Halem, chief of the Earth and Space Data and Computing Division at NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, discussed the continuing collaborative efforts between NASA and the Library of Congress. He discussed the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by the two agencies this spring in which NASA will apply its technology to a global information system, namely GLIN.

Later in the meeting, representatives from NASA provided technical options for the future design of the network, including the possibility of a distributed architecture in which some or all of the database resides on regional servers instead of a central server (at the Library) as it does currently.

Ausra Petraitiene, GLIN project director in Lithuania, is the first GLIN Model Station Award recipient.

The interface maintains the authenticity and integrity of GLIN's legal texts. This issue was addressed in a session on computer security. Barbara Guttman, computer security specialist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, discussed some current security technology such as digital watermarks and electronic signatures. Mary Levering, associate register for National Copyright Programs, discussed legal issues related to the application of this technology. For example, the U.S. Copyright Office (part of the Library of Congress) has determined that electronic signatures are legal.

Dr. Medina led the discussion about expanding the content of legal information to be included in the database. Although the GLIN database began with statutes and regulations, it is designed to accommodate the full range of legal information such as constitutions, jurisprudence, parliamentary debates and legal articles and commentaries. He encouraged project directors to consider the establishment of associate GLIN stations at institutions other than the legislature, such as ministries of justice and law schools, to capture this related material.

A resolution affirming the central role of the Library in recruiting new partners for GLIN was proposed, and Dr. Medina was asked to serve as GLIN director general. In this role, he will continue to promote membership in GLIN, develop the training program that the Law Library provides to GLIN teams from member nations and direct research and development efforts.

On the final day of the meeting, the Lithuanian GLIN station, under Project Director Ausra Petraitiene, was given the GLIN Model Station Award for its exemplary performance and pioneering work in the network. The Lithuanian GLIN station was the first fully operational station in the network. Shortly after its team was trained in April 1995, they established a stable routine of transmitting legal material to the database, because regular transmission of legal material is critical to maintaining the GLIN standards of currency and completeness of the file.

In addition to the award ceremony, three new project directors, from South Korea, the Federal District of Mexico and Romania, signed the GLIN Guiding Principles which define the noncommercial, cooperative nature of the network.

This year's meeting was the largest to date. As the number of countries contributing to the database grows, its value to members — and Congress — increases.

—Janice Hyde

Janice Hyde is GLIN program officer in the Law Library.

Book Exhibit Opens

On Saturday, Nov. 9, "For the Heart of the Child: Picture Books from the Last Three Decades," an exhibition of some 45 picture books from the Library's collections, opens in the foyer of the Mumford Room on the sixth floor of the Madison Building. The exhibit shows the remarkable variety of formats and genres that are available to young readers. It will remain on view until Feb. 8, 1997.

News from the Center for the Book

Colorado Hosts Library-Museum-Head Start Workshop

"What happens, or does not happen, during the first five years of life decides in large part the child's destiny for the rest of life. Although many children can benefit from later intervention, the costs of reversing a poor start increase as the child grows older, and the chances of success diminish."

Project Coordinator Virginia Mathews quoted these words from *Kids Can't Wait. . . Library Advocacy Now!*, a paper she wrote for Mary R. Somerville, the 1996-97 president of the American Library Association, in opening the Center for the Book's fifth Library-Museum-Head Start Partnership Workshop.

In emphasizing the importance of including libraries and museums in collaborative efforts on behalf of children, Ms. Mathews focused on the importance of both passion and persistence: "Never, ever, ever give up. You need the hide of a rhinoceros. You have to become known, listened to and respected. But you don't have to be loved — your mother and dog already love you."

Held in Denver on Sept. 5-6 and hosted by the Colorado Center for the Book, the workshop brought together more than 85 Head Start teachers, museum specialists and librarians who serve children throughout Colorado and Wyoming. LC Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole and Kimberly Taylor, coordinator of the Colorado Center for the Book, greeted attendees, as did Sheila Russell of the Wyoming State Library, who represented Wyoming Center for the Book Coordinator Linn Rounds.

Dr. Cole announced that, since 1994, the workshop series, supported by a transfer of federal funds from Head Start to the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, had trained more than 700 Head Start teachers, librarians and museum specialists. "The goal," he said, "is to create new local partnerships that encourage reading and family literacy projects in Head Start programs. These partnerships indeed are blossoming — in the regions where state centers for the book have sponsored workshops, as well as in neighboring regions. The Center for the Book is grateful not only to Head Start but also to the seven state centers that have hosted regional meetings as part of this effort. We also thank the many library and museum volunteers who have learned about and become involved with Head Start because of this partnership. In many communities, they are the new and essential ingredient in making the partnership work."

Laura Campbell, director of education at the Children's Museum (left), and Bonnie Sutherland from the Colorado Center for the Book at the September Denver wokshop

Library consultant Virginia Mathews (right) and Sandra Harris, director of Colorado's Head Start State Collaboration project, discuss the morning program.

The program began in 1992 as the Library-Head Start Partnership Project, funded as part of a joint agreement between the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Head Start Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services. Youth advocate and library consultant Virginia Mathews was named Center for the Book coordinator; Trellis Wright of LC became the Head Start Bureau's project representative.

Barbara Immroth (center), from the University of Texas at Austin, speaks with conference participants.

The Children's Museum

Major planning conferences were held at the Library of Congress on July 13-15, 1992, and Sept. 11-13, 1994, when museums that serve children were added to the partnership. Workshops prior to the one in Denver, all hosted by affiliated state centers for the book, have been held in Sacramento, Calif. (December 1993); Richmond, Va. (March 1994); Topeka, Kan. (May 1994); Orlando, Fla. (February 1995); St. Paul, Minn. (April 1995); Austin, Texas (December 1995); and Phoenix (February-March 1996). Additional workshops, usually led by trained participants from previous sessions, have been held in Connecticut, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Oregon. In addition, since 1993, Virginia Mathews has made presentations on behalf of the project at 10 Head Start, library, or museum-related association meetings.

The Association for Library Services to Children (ASLC), a division of the American Library Association, is a project sponsor and the major link to libraries. ASLC was represented in Denver by its executive director, Susan Roman. The Association of Youth Museums (AYM) is the link to museums. Executive Director Janet Rice Elman has represented AYM at previous workshops; in Denver, the association was represented by board member Allison Moore, who also is director of the Collage Children's Museum in Boulder, Colo. Special events for conference participants included a reception in the Children's Room at the Denver Public Library and a tour and dinner at the Children's Museum of Denver on Sept. 5.

On Sept. 4, the Colorado Center for the Book sponsored its fourth annual Celebrity Book Auction, a fund-raiser for its Rocky Mountain Book Festival, which was held on Oct. 5-6.

The discussions in Denver began with the viewing of a 40-minute video produced by the LC Center for the Book in the first phase of the partnership project. Accompanied by a printed guide, the video demonstrates how to form a partnership; how libraries can encourage parental involvement and link library resources to Head Start activities and library-programming and book-selection techniques.

For information about obtaining the video, write or call the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington, DC 20540-4920, (202) 707-5221.

Other speakers at the Denver workshop included: Sandra Harris, director, Head Start State Collaboration Project, Governor's Office, State of Colorado; Barbara Immroth, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin; Irene Jacobs, director, Success by Six, Children's Action Alliance, Phoenix; Ellen Keen, director, Head Start, Children's Services of Colorado Inc., Lakewood; Jane L. Amundson, Early Childhood Development Disabilities Coordinator, Colorado Department of Education; Keith Curry Lance, director, Library Research Service, Colorado Department of Education; and Carole Talan, director, State Literacy Resource Center of California, Sacramento. In addition to Dr. Cole, the LC Center for the Book was represented by Program Specialist Anne Boni. Bonnie Sutherland was the Colorado Center for the Book's event coordinator.

□ **Student "Do the Write Thing" Winners Visit LC.** On July 15, the Center for the Book hosted 50 student winners of the annual "Do the Write Thing" essay contest, which is sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop Violence in 23 states across the nation. The ceremony, held in the Northwest Gallery in the Jefferson Building, featured two junior high school students reading from their winning essays: Crystal Lammers from Anchorage, Alaska, and Matthew Hilliard of Atlanta. On behalf of the Library, Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole congratulated all of the students, briefly described the Library and its services, and accepted a bound book containing all of the winning essays. Following the program, tour guides from the Visitor Services Office showed the students and their teachers around the Jefferson Building, emphasizing its educational value.

In the essay contest, students were asked to write about the problem of violence in the United States and what they could do to stop violence in their lives. The 50 winning essays were selected from several thousand that were submitted, many through a partnership between the National Campaign to Stop Violence and the U.S. National Guard Bureau, one of 13 cooperating organizations in the program.

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